

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 587  
By Walker R

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Ernest Neal of  
Cumberland County on being selected to receive  
the Friends of Farmers Award.

WHEREAS, it is the great pleasure of this General Assembly to honor and congratulate those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have promoted and advanced agriculture in the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Ernest Neal of Cumberland County is one such noteworthy individual, having recently been selected to receive the Friends of Farmers Award by the Greater Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce and the Cumberland County Farm Bureau; and

WHEREAS, the award is presented to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to agriculture, and Ernest Neal is certainly no exception; and

WHEREAS, growing up on farms, Ernest Neal went to work for the University of Tennessee's Plateau Experiment Station in 1949; and

WHEREAS, providing inestimable service to the State of Tennessee, Mr. Neal worked at the experiment station for 40 years, serving as farm foreman for 18 years before retiring in 1989; and

WHEREAS, always the dedicated professional, Mr. Neal has been unable to stay away from the experiment station since his retirement; he regularly comes in to work to check on progress and studies; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Neal is especially helpful with the Ag in the Classroom program that treats hundreds of third graders to a day on the farm; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded by his peers and colleagues, Mr. Neal received the highly prestigious Outstanding Achievement Award from the University of Tennessee in 1981; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work with the experiment station, Mr. Neal still farms 440 acres and has a herd of 120 cows; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Mr. Neal received the Cumberland County Farm Bureau's Outstanding Service Award in 2000; he has been actively involved with that fine organization for many years, serving on its Board of Directors and involving himself at both District and State levels; he has served as President of the Cumberland County Farm Bureau since 1995; and

WHEREAS, actively involved within the farming community, Mr. Neal has served 14 years on the Cumberland Farmers Cooperative Board and has been Chairman several times; he has also served on the Board of the Cumberland County Livestock Association and is a Past President of that worthy organization; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Neal is also an active Mason and is past Master of Crossville Masonic Lodge #483; and

WHEREAS, a deeply spiritual man, Mr. Neal is an active and devout member of the First Christian Church; and

WHEREAS, his many professional and personal accomplishments aside, Mr. Neal is perhaps most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife of 60 years, Dorothy, their son, Lynn, their three grandchildren, and their newly born great-granddaughter; and

WHEREAS, exemplary farmers such as Ernest Neal are vital in upholding and maintaining Tennessee's agricultural heritage; without their contributions, this lifeblood of Tennessee would be severely hindered; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we should honor Mr. Neal for his great contributions to agriculture and farming in the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Ernest Neal of Cumberland County on being selected to receive the Friends of Farmers Award, salute his dedication to agriculture, and wish him the best in his every future endeavor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.